

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-25. (cancelled)

26. (new) A saw blade comprising:

a body adapted for reciprocating engagement with a tool, said body including a cutting portion and a shank portion, said cutting portion having a cutting edge on a first side and a back edge on a second side opposite said first side, said shank portion having a first edge generally extending from said cutting edge, a second edge generally extending from said back edge, and a rear mounting edge generally connecting said first and second edges, said second edge being laterally offset from said back edge forming a stepped portion therebetween, said second edge including an angularly disposed edge section proximate said rear mounting edge and disposed at an angle relative to said cutting edge, said angularly disposed edge section generally defining a reciprocating axis of said saw blade.

27. (new) The saw blade of claim 26, wherein said shank portion includes an aperture therethrough.

28. (new) The saw blade of claim 27, wherein said aperture includes a flat edge proximate said rear mounting edge.

29. (new) The saw blade of claim 28, wherein said flat edge is generally perpendicular to said angularly disposed edge section.

30. (new) The saw blade of claim 26, wherein said angle is an acute angle.

31. (new) The saw blade of claim 30, wherein said angle is between 2 and 6 degrees.

32. (new) The saw blade of claim 26, wherein said rear mounting edge is generally perpendicular to said angularly disposed edge section.

33. (new) The saw blade of claim 26, wherein said rear mounting edge includes a recess therein.

34. (new) The saw blade of claim 26, wherein said lateral offset of said second edge is a lateral offset generally toward said cutting edge.

35. (new) The saw blade of claim 26, wherein said first edge is laterally offset from said cutting edge.

36. (new) The saw blade of claim 35, wherein said lateral offset of said first edge is a lateral offset generally outwardly from said cutting edge.

37. (new) A saw blade and clamping system comprising:

a support structure including a pair of lateral walls and a base portion extending between said lateral walls; and

a saw blade having a body adapted for reciprocating engagement with said support structure, said body including a cutting portion and a shank portion, said cutting portion having a cutting edge on a first side and a back edge on a second side opposite said first side, said shank portion having a first edge generally extending from said cutting edge, a second edge generally extending from said back edge, and a rear mounting edge generally connecting said first and second edges, said second edge being laterally offset from said back edge forming a stepped portion therebetween, said second edge including an angularly disposed edge section proximate said rear mounting edge and disposed at an angle relative to said cutting edge, said angularly disposed edge section adapted to engage one of said lateral walls of said support structure, said angularly disposed edge section generally defining a reciprocating axis of said saw blade.

38. (new) The system of claim 37, wherein said base portion includes a stop thereon and said rear mounting edge of said saw blade includes a recess for receiving said stop.

39. (new) The system of claim 37, wherein said shank portion includes an aperture therethrough.

40. (new) The system of claim 39, wherein said aperture includes a flat edge proximate said rear mounting edge.

41. (new) The system of claim 40, wherein said flat edge is generally perpendicular to said angularly disposed edge section.

42. (new) The system of claim 37, wherein said angle is an acute angle.

43. (new) The system of claim 42, wherein said angle is between 2 and 6 degrees.

44. (new) The system of claim 37, wherein said lateral offset of said second edge is a lateral offset generally toward said cutting edge.

45. (new) The system of claim 37, wherein said first edge is laterally offset generally outwardly from said cutting edge.